

TOWN OF DALTON  
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
WAHCONAH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - MAY 2, 2011 - 7:00 P.M.

The Moderator, Ronald J. Marcella, Sr., called the Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Jean M. Gingras, Michelle PH White, Deborah D. Smith and Maureen M. Mitchell were appointed tellers and sworn by Town Clerk, Barbara L. Suriner. There were a total of 127 Registered Voters checked at the door as follows:

PRECINCT 1 - 74  
PRECINCT 2 - 53  
127

It was moved, seconded and voted to waive the complete reading of the Warrant.

ARTICLE 1. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town hear a report of the Select Board on the "State of the Town".

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 2. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town, pursuant to the provisions of Section 53E1/2 of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, authorize the establishment of revolving funds for certain town departments for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 as follows:

<u>Revolving Fund</u>	<u>Authorized to Spend Fund</u>	<u>Revenue Source</u>	<u>Use of Fund</u>	<u>FY12 Spending Limit</u>	<u>Disposition of FY12 Fund Balance</u>
Plumbing Inspector	Town Manager	Plumbing permit Fees and applications	Reimburse Inspector for inspection Services	\$15,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure
Electrical Inspector	Town Manager	Electrical permit Fees and applications	Reimburse Inspector for Inspection Services	\$10,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure
Tree Warden/ Planning Board	Tree Warden	Payments from subdivision developers	Planting of trees and shrubs within specific locations	\$5,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure
Historical Commission	Town Manager & Commission Treasurer	Gifts, donations and receipts from sales	Expenses relating to the administrative functions of the commission	\$4,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure
Cemetery Department	Cemetery Trustees & Superintendent of Highway/Cemetery	Payments for burials outside of the cemetery work day	Grave digging services and overtime payroll expenses	\$2,500.00	Balance up to \$2,500.00 available for expenditure, remainder reverts to the General Fund
Council on Aging	Town Manager & COA Director	Receipt of fees for transportation services	Offset expenses of the BRTA bus operation	\$20,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure
Council on Aging <u>NEW ACCOUNT FY12</u>	Town Manager & COA Director	Receipt of fees for program services	Offset expenses of the COA programs operation	\$15,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure
Dog/Animal Control	Town Clerk	Dog license fees and other charges as established under Chapter 23 of the Town Code pursuant to MGL Chapter 40 Section 147A	Offset expenses related to the administration of licenses and other animal control matters	\$3,000.00	Balance up to \$3,000 available for expenditure, remainder reverts to the General Fund
Cemetery Department	Cemetery Trustees	Reimbursement payments for damage to town cemeteries	Payment of expenses related to the repair of sustained damage	\$5,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure
Legal Advertising	Town Manager	Legal advertising fees	Payment of expenses related to legal advertisements	\$3,000.00	Balance up to \$3,000 available for expenditure, remainder reverts to the General Fund
Parks Maintenance	Town Manager & Superintendent Highway/Cemetery	Fees from outside users of Pine grove Pavilion	Any lawful maintenance expense in town parks	\$1,000.00	Balance Available for expenditure

CARRIED. DECLARED MAJORITY.

ARTICLE 3. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town adopt the "Schedule of Compensation for Elected Officials" for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011 as follows:

<u>ELECTED OFFICIALS</u>	<u>FY 2012</u>
Moderator	\$ 351.00
Select Board - Chairman	4,100.00
- Members (4)	3,266.50
Town Clerk	36,931.00

CARRIED. DECLARED MAJORITY.

ARTICLE 4. It was moved, seconded and voted that the amounts of money set forth in the printed report of the Finance Committee, for Fiscal Year 2012 and totaling \$6,037,347 be appropriated for the several purposes therein itemized, each numbered item being considered as a separate appropriation, and that the same be expended only for such purposes.

It was moved, seconded and voted that the reading of the entire report be waived.

FY2012  
TOWN OPERATING BUDGET

**General Government**

114 Moderator	
Salary	351
Expenses	100
	<b>451</b>
122 Select Board	
Salary-Elected	17,166
Expenses	3,422
	<b>20,588</b>
123 Town Manager	
Salaries	121,797
Expenses	7,509
	<b>129,306</b>
131 Finance Committee	
Expenses	185
	<b>185</b>
132 Reserve Fund	
Expenses	See Article #9
135 Accountant	
Salaries	41,151
Expenses	7,460
	<b>48,611</b>
138 Group Purchasing	
Expenses	600
	<b>600</b>
139 Financial Audit	
Expenses	0
	<b>0</b>
141 Assessors	
Salaries	78,498
Expenses	17,050
	<b>95,548</b>
145 Town Treasurer	
Salaries	69,196
Expenses	21,500
	<b>90,696</b>
146 Town Collector	
Salaries	57,561
Expenses	12,440
	<b>70,001</b>
151 Town Counsel	
Expenses	45,000
	<b>45,000</b>
152 Telephone	
Expenses	14,240
	<b>14,240</b>
154 Recording Secretary	
Salary	4,440
	<b>4,440</b>
157 Computer	
Expenses	6,850
	<b>6,850</b>
158 Postage	
Expenses	17,136
	<b>17,136</b>
159 Tax Title	
Expenses	2,500
	<b>2,500</b>

2011

161	Town Clerk	
	Salary-Elected	36,931
	Salaries	27,841
	Expenses	6,510
		<b>71,282</b>
162	Elections	
	Salaries	5,666
	Expenses	5,985
		<b>11,651</b>
163	Registrars	
	Salaries	6,035
	Expenses	2,875
		<b>8,910</b>
171	Conservation Commission	
	Expenses	1,846
		<b>1,846</b>
175	Planning Board/Board of Appeals	
	Salary	22,809
	Expenses	300
		<b>23,109</b>
182	Industrial Development Commission	
	Expenses	910
		<b>910</b>
191	Old Dalton High	
	Salary	0
	Expenses	7,100
		<b>7,100</b>
192	Buildings Maintenance	
	Salary	52,266
	Expenses	8,589
		<b>60,855</b>
195	Town Report	
	Expenses	6,650
		<b>6,650</b>
196	Town Hall	
	Salaries	1,500
	Expenses	63,614
		<b>65,114</b>
197	Central Supplies	
	Salaries	0
	Expenses	13,800
		<b>13,800</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>		<b>817,379</b>
<b>Public Safety</b>		
210	Police Department	
	Salaries	807,705
	Expenses	86,661
		<b>894,366</b>
222	Communications	
	Salaries	164,002
	Expenses	8,500
		<b>172,502</b>
240	Building Inspections	
	Salaries	39,433
	Expenses	1,700
		<b>41,133</b>
244	Sealer of Weights & Measures	
	Salary	1,268
	Expenses	100
		<b>1,368</b>
247	Animal Inspector	
	Salary	1,280
		<b>1,280</b>
292	Animal Control	
	Salaries	19,274
	Expenses	3,619
		<b>22,893</b>
294	Forest Warden	
	Salary	2,347
	Expenses	1,150
		<b>3,497</b>
295	Emergency Response	
	Salary	3,352
	Expenses	3,745
		<b>7,097</b>
296	Shade Tree/Tree Warden	
	Salary	1,996
	Expenses	16,000
		<b>17,996</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>		<b>1,162,132</b>

**Education**

320 Vocational Education	
Expenses	478,296
	<b>478,296</b>

**CATEGORY TOTAL****478,296**

401 Town Engineer	
Expenses	4,000
	<b>4,000</b>

420 Highway Department	
Salaries	296,492
Expenses	100,948
	<b>397,440</b>

423 Snow & Ice	
Salaries	27,267
Expenses	112,330
	<b>139,597</b>

424 Streetlights	
Expenses	82,260
	<b>82,260</b>

433 Landfill Monitoring	
Salaries	1,815
Expenses	12,000
	<b>13,815</b>

434 Transfer Station	
Salaries	0
Expenses	14,452
	<b>14,452</b>

440 Sewer Maintenance (Offset Receipts)	
Salaries	14,046
Expenses	6,878
	<b>20,924</b>

449 Sewer Treatment Plant (Offset Receipts)	
Salaries	895
Expenses	711,754
	<b>712,649</b>

491 Cemetery Department	
Salaries	53,800
Expenses	20,514
	<b>74,314</b>

**CATEGORY TOTAL****1,459,451****Human Services**

510 Board of Health	
Salary	26,294
Expenses	1,907
	<b>28,201</b>

522 Public Health Nurse	
Salary	4,800
Expenses	1,500
	<b>6,300</b>

523 Mental Health & Substance Abuse	
Expenses	2,143
	<b>2,143</b>

541 Council on Aging	
Salaries	85,023
Expenses	17,412
	<b>102,435</b>

543 Veterans' Services	
Salary	6,498
Expenses	23,300
	<b>29,798</b>

591 Berkshire Regional Planning Commission	
Expenses	4,383
	<b>4,383</b>

**CATEGORY TOTAL****173,260****Culture and Recreation**

610 Library	
Salaries	118,694
Expenses	55,898
	<b>174,592</b>

630 Parks and Recreation	See Article #5
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650 Parks Maintenance	
Salaries	27,481
Expenses	14,590
	<b>42,071</b>

2011

691 Historical Commission Expenses	600 <b>600</b>
692 Memorial Day Committee Expenses	1,970 <b>1,970</b>
693 Cultural Activities Expenses	2,280 <b>2,280</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>221,513</b>
<b>Debt Service</b>	
710B(L) Bond Fees	500 <b>500</b>
710H Debt and Interest (Highway & TH)	177,579 <b>177,579</b>
710C Debt and Interest (Capital Imp Program)	See Article #15
710TH Debt and Interest (TH)	95,743 <b>95,743</b>
710L/S Library/Senior Center	1,756 <b>1,756</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>275,578</b>
<b>Other</b>	
911 Berkshire County Retirement Assessment Expenses	351,781 <b>351,781</b>
913 Unemployment Expenses	27,870 <b>27,870</b>
914 Group Health Insurance Expenses	802,253 <b>802,253</b>
915 Group Life Insurance Expenses	6,500 <b>6,500</b>
916 Medicare Expenses	32,434 <b>32,434</b>
919 Employment Benefits Salaries Expenses	25,180 1,580 <b>26,760</b>
998 Pension Reserve Fund Expenses	0 <b>0</b>
941 Court Judgments & Claims Expenses	3,000 <b>3,000</b>
945 Town Insurance Expenses	198,911 <b>198,911</b>
950 Commissioner of Trust Funds Expenses	229 <b>229</b>
<b>CATEGORY TOTAL</b>	<b>1,449,738</b>
<b>ARTICLE TOTAL</b>	<b>6,037,347</b>

CARRIED.                      DECLARED MAJORITY.

ARTICLE 5. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$58,955.00 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011, for the purpose of providing recreation and leisure time activities to the people of Dalton.

CARRIED.                      UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 6. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town appropriate \$6,763,893.00 for the purpose of paying the Town's share of the Operating Budget of the Central Berkshire Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011.

CARRIED.                      UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 7. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$551,402.00 for the purpose of paying the Town's share of the Transportation Budget of the Central Berkshire Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 8. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town raise and appropriate \$267,392.00 for the purpose of paying the Town's share of the Capital Budget of the Central Berkshire Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 9. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town transfer \$80,000.00 from Free Cash in the Treasury to Account 132, the Reserve Fund, for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2011.

CARRIED. DECLARED MAJORITY.

ARTICLE 10. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town take no action under this Article.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 11. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town transfer \$500,000.00 from Free Cash in the Treasury for the purpose of reducing the expected tax rate increase in the 2012 fiscal year.

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

CARRIED. DECLARED MAJORITY.

ARTICLE 12. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town transfer \$50,000.00 from Free Cash in the Treasury to the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund.

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

CARRIED. DECLARED MAJORITY.

ARTICLE 13. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town transfer \$25,000.00 from Free Cash in the Treasury to the General Stabilization Fund.

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

CARRIED. DECLARED MAJORITY.

ARTICLE 14. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town transfer \$25,000.00 from Free Cash in the Treasury to the Sewer Stabilization Fund.

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

CARRIED. YES - 79 NO - 24

ARTICLE 15. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town transfer \$69,776 from the Capital Stabilization Fund, for the purpose of paying principal and interest on debt incurred under the Capital Improvement Program, due and payable in the 2012 fiscal year.

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

CARRIED. DECLARED MAJORITY.

ARTICLE 16. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town appropriate \$600,000 for the design, engineering and construction of Town Hall handicapped accessibility improvements consisting of the installation of an elevator to serve all three floors of the Town Hall including the Police Station, and two handicapped accessible bathrooms and related improvements including borrowing costs associated with said project and all other costs incidental or related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow \$600,000 under G.L. c.44, §7(3A) or any other enabling authority; that the Select Board is authorized to contract for and expend any federal or state aid available for the project; and that the Select Board is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect until the Town votes to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition 2½) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

CARRIED. YES - 72 NO - 33

ARTICLE 17. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town appropriate \$525,000 for the design, engineering and construction of Town Hall second floor renovations, Crane Room access improvements, and Town Hall furnace improvements, including the installation of insulation, wiring, stairway enclosures, and an entryway to said floor, and the conversion of the Town Hall furnaces to dual fuel; and including borrowing costs associated with said project and all other costs incidental or related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow \$525,000 under G.L. c.44, §7(3A) or any other enabling authority; that the Select Board is authorized to contract for and expend any federal or state aid available for the project; and that the Select Board is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect until the Town votes to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition 2½) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

CARRIED. YES - 70 NO – 23

ARTICLE 18. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town appropriate \$75,000 for the design, engineering and construction of library renovations including interior painting, installation of carpeting, ceiling replacement and renovation of the entryway vestibule, including borrowing costs associated with said project and all other costs incidental or related thereto; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Select Board is authorized to borrow \$75,000 under G.L. c.44, §7(3A) or any other enabling authority; that the Select Board is authorized to contract for and expend any federal or state aid available for the project; and that the Select Board is authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this project; provided, however, that this vote shall not take effect until the Town votes to exempt from the limitation on total taxes imposed by G.L. c.59, §21C (Proposition 2½) amounts required to pay the principal of and interest on the borrowing authorized by this vote.

TWO-THIRDS VOTE REQUIRED

CARRIED. DECLARED MAJORITY.

ARTICLE 19. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town authorize employment agreements between the Town and Highway/Cemetery Superintendent, the Highway/Cemetery Foreman, and the Police Sergeant; all of which include annual salaries that were provided for under Article 4 hereinabove.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 20. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town transfer \$4,787 from Salaries to Expenses and further that \$45,570 be transferred from Free Cash in the Treasury and \$12,232 from Overlay Surplus to fund additional expenses in Fiscal Year 2011 in department #423, "Snow and Ice", incurred under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 Section 31D.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 21. It was moved, seconded and voted that this amendment be referred to the Planning Board for its review and recommendation. (Citizen's Petition)

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 22. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town authorize a permanent Preservation Restriction, under the provisions of M.G. L. Chapter 184, sections 31-33, and a maintenance agreement on the Hoose House, so called, pursuant to a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation Projects Fund and to execute and enter into contracts for project work, sign preservation restrictions, and disburse funds.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 23. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town hereby approve the \$1,600,000 borrowing authorized by the Central Berkshire Regional School District for the purpose of paying costs of the renovation of Craneville Elementary School, consisting of replacement and/or rehabilitation of the roof and skylights including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto located at 71 Park Avenue, Dalton, MA, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, which proposed repair project would materially extend the useful life of the school and preserve an asset that otherwise is capable of supporting the required educational program, and for which the District may be eligible for a school construction grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority ("MSBA"), said sum to be expended at the direction of the District School Committee; that the Town acknowledges that the

Massachusetts School Building Authority's ("MSBA") grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any project costs the District incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the District; provided further that any grant that District may receive from the MSBA for the project shall not exceed the lesser of (1) 56.26 percent (%) of eligible, approved project costs, as determined by the MSBA, or (2) the total maximum grant amount determined by the MSBA; provided that any appropriation hereunder shall be subject to and contingent upon (i) an affirmative vote of the Town to exempt the amounts required to pay for its share of the bonds or notes issued by the District from the limitations on taxes imposed by M.G.L. 59, Section 21C (Proposition 21/2) and (ii) the approval of a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority for a percentage of the eligible costs of the project; and that the amount of borrowing authorized by the District shall be reduced by any grant amount set forth in the Project Funding Agreement that may be executed between the District and the MSBA.

CARRIED. UNANIMOUSLY.

ARTICLE 24. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town authorize the Select Board, upon such terms and conditions as it deems appropriate, to enter into a lease of the building commonly known as the Old Dalton High School, for a term not exceeding seventy-five years, for the purpose of using said building for senior housing.

CARRIED. DECLARED MAJORITY.

ARTICLE 25. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town authorize the Select Board to enter into a contract for a term up to or exceeding three years with a non-profit organization with an established record of providing high quality support services to Berkshire Elders, which non-profit organization may be Elder Services of Berkshire County, Inc., for project management and grant administration services in connection with grants under the US Department of Housing and Urban Development Section 202 Supportive Housing Program for the Elderly, or any other similar grants or loans provided by any other Federal or state agency.

CARRIED. DECLARED MAJORITY.

ARTICLE 26. It was moved, seconded and voted that the Town recess until MONDAY, MAY 9, 2011 at 10:00 O'CLOCK A.M. to meet in the DALTON COMMUNITY HOUSE, to choose and elect the following Town Officers:

:

(2)	Member(s) - Select Board	For 3 Years
(1)	Moderator	For 1 Year
(1)	Member - Planning Board	For 5 Years
(1)	Member –Dalton Housing Authority	For 5 Years
(1)	Member –Dalton Housing Authority	For 1 Year
(1)	Cemetery Trustee	For 3 Years
(3)	Library Trustees	For 3 Years
(3)	Members - Finance Committee	For 3 Years
(1)	Member – Finance Committee	For 1 Year

And to vote on Ballot Questions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 as follows:

#### QUESTION 1

Shall the Town of Dalton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds or notes issued in order to pay for the design, engineering and construction of Town Hall handicapped accessibility improvements consisting of the installation of an elevator to serve all three floors of the Town Hall including the Police Station, and two handicapped accessible bathrooms and related improvements, including borrowing costs associated with said project and all other costs incidental or related thereto?

YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_

#### QUESTION 2

Shall the Town of Dalton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds or notes issued in order to pay for the design, engineering, and construction of Town Hall second floor renovations, Crane Room access improvements, and Town Hall furnace improvements, including the installation of insulation, wiring, stairway enclosures, and an entryway to said floor, and the conversion of the Town Hall furnaces to dual fuel, including borrowing costs associated with said project, and all other costs incidental or related thereto?

YES\_\_\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_\_\_



QUESTION 3

Shall the Town of Dalton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds or notes issued in order to pay for the design, engineering, and construction of library renovations including interior painting, installation of carpeting, ceiling replacement and renovation of the entryway vestibule, including borrowing costs associated with said project, and all other costs incidental or related thereto?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTION 4

Shall the Town of Dalton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so called, the amounts required to pay for its share of the bonds or notes issued by the Central Berkshire Regional School District in order to pay for the renovation of Craneville Elementary School consisting of replacement and or rehabilitation of the roof and skylights?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

QUESTION 5

THE FOLLOWING QUESTION IS NON-BINDING

Shall the Town of Dalton direct the Select Board to request that the Central Berkshire Regional School Committee designate preferred vocational schools?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting recessed at 11:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara L. Suriner, TOWN CLERK

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